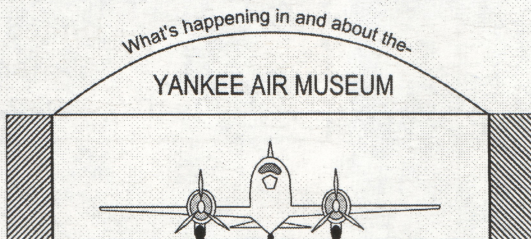


The Newsletter of the Yankee Air Force



Hangar Happenin's

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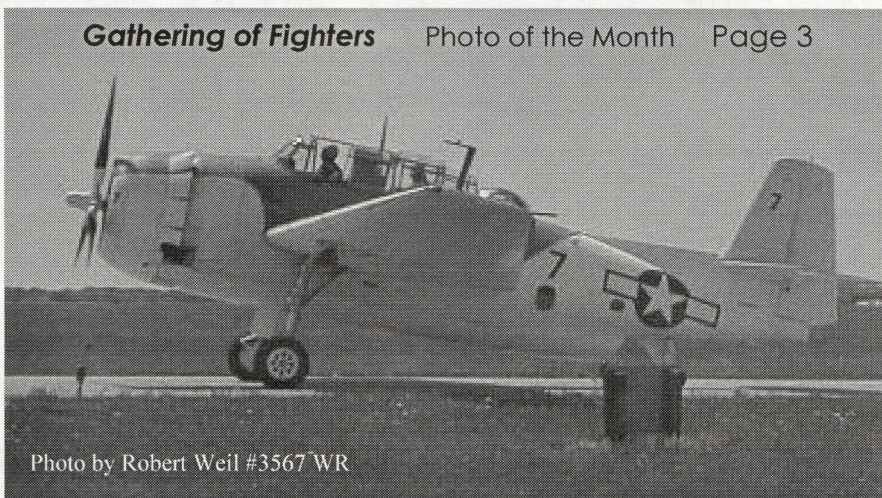


Photo by Robert Weil #3567 WR

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SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR SUNDAY APRIL 7TH !

Join us on the web: www.yankeeairmuseum.org

April 2002

The Yankee Air Force, Inc.
A Non-Profit Organization
501(c)(3)
2041 A Street - East Access
Willow Run Airport
Belleville MI 48111



Hangar Happenin's is a monthly newsletter of the Yankee Air Force.

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1919 - 2000

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Ray Jackson Ray Hunter
Deane Baker John Day
Brian Higgins Dick Stewart
Erwin Stirnweis Paul Chu Lin
Bill Colwell Tony Hurst

MEETING SCHEDULE

1st Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
General Membership
All Members & Guests Welcome

2nd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Flyable Aircraft Meeting
Everyone Welcome

3rd Wednesday of Month - 7:30 PM
Board Meeting
Public Welcome

MUSEUM HOURS

10 - 4 TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12 - 4 SUNDAY
CLOSED MONDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Phone: (734) 483 - 4030
Fax: (734) 483 - 5076

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**Visitors to our Museum
during the month of
February 2002
were from 13 of our
United States
and
Germany, Japan, and Switzerland**

PAST DATES OF INTEREST

* * * * *

4 April 1944	20th Air Force activated
8 April 1943	P-47s first flown in combat over Europe
10 April 1994	USAF F-16s make first NATO air attacks in Bosnian conflict
12 April 1961	First manned space flight
12 April 1966	First SAC B-52s bomb North Vietnam
15 April 1986	USAF F-111s strike Libya
16 April 1949	Berlin Airlift record: 12,940 tons in 24 hours
18 April 1942	Doolittle Raid on Tokyo: 16 B-25s fly from deck of the <i>USS Hornet</i>
24 April 1962	USAF first uses orbiting satellite to transmit TV photos
28 April 1942	22 Japanese aircraft downed by American Volunteer Group <i>Flying Tigers</i>
30 April 1975	Vietnam War ends

* * * * *

**There was no 50/50 drawing
at the March meeting**

Our internet address is
<http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org>

Our e-mail address is
yankeeairmuseum@provide.net

Hangar Happenin's e-mail address is
yankeeairmuseum@provide.net



The Room 216 Report

by Jon Stevens L 4172 WR

With the on-again, off-again warmer weather we're having, winter is finally releasing its grip, and 2002 is about ready to *really* begin at the museum.

We've again held more meetings and discussions this last month, and I'm happy to report we've gotten what looks like a tentative agreement on the *Memorandum of Understanding* between the **Yankee Air Museum** and **MAIF** (the **Michigan Aerospace Innovation Foundation**).

Starting with the original draft in late December, we've gone back and forth on several issues, and have come up with a document that I think we can all live with.

By mid-February, we'd come to agreement on the major points (our artifacts will remain ours, the flyable aircraft will continue to be scheduled as we choose, etc.) but this left the "minor details" that are the toughest part of negotiations.

Between faxes, e-mails and face-to-face meetings, we've bounced a lot of ideas around, and have come to agreement. Once our attorney has given the document their blessing, we'll have a special board meeting to vote on it.

While we don't have complete agreement on all issues, I'm very pleased with the progress we've made, and on the willingness on

everyone's part to work together in securing the future of the museum.

Good job, everyone!

Volunteers are what make the Yankee Air Museum the great place that it is. The work they do for us throughout the year is amazing, and as a way of thanking both them *and* the families who support them, we're starting something new this year. As we announced at the March General Membership Meeting, on Saturday evening May 11th we will hold the first semi-annual Willow Run Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue.

While the details haven't been worked out completely, we've

come up with the basic format. The department heads will submit lists of their regular volunteers since last fall, and we will invite them to come out to Willow Run for this event. At the hangar, the museum's officers and directors will serve dinner.

Among other things, we'll have door prizes, with ten winners having their choice of a shirt from the museum store.

Since we seem to have two seasons at Yankee (Airshow season and Getting-Ready-For-Next-Year's-Airshow-season) we'll do it again this fall for those volunteers who've worked at the hangar this spring and summer. More details to come.

As a museum, our first priority is the preservation of our artifacts. Along with the rest of her duties, our curator, Museum Activities Director **Gayle Roberts-Walker** has been working this winter on an artifacts policy.

Working with several other museums, and consulting with her museum contacts, she has put together a comprehensive plan that covers artifact accession, cataloging, conservation, storage, display, loans, and de-accession.

She will be presenting the document to the Board of Governors shortly, and we will give you more details at that time.

If there's ever anything you want to talk about, please feel free to call me at home: **(248) 353-3384** or e-mail me at: jon_stevens_77@worldnet.att.net

TBM AVENGER

The Avenger was designed in early 1940 to replace the TBD Devastator as a carrier-based torpedo bomber.

First reported in action in the Battle of Midway in 1942, the TBF (designed by Grumman) and the TBM (produced by the Eastern Aircraft Division of General Motors) Avenger torpedo bomber each had a 3-man crew, a top speed of 300 mph, an internal bomb bay with a capacity for one torpedo or three 500-pound bombs, self-sealing fuel tanks, armor protection, and a powered dorsal gun turret.

Former President George Bush piloted an Avenger during World War II.

Beautifully restored in South Atlantic paint scheme, this TBM Avenger is owned and flown by YAF member **Dave Tinker #9001 WR.**



CONNIE'S

O
R
N
E
R

by
Connie Kosek

**Yankee members
and
website friends ...**



APRIL is the month that we usually associate with fun things...

April 1 is April Fools' Day (watch out for tricks!)

April 7 Daylight Savings Time (on the first Sunday remember to "spring forward" at 2:00 AM)

April 22 is Earth Day

April 26 is Arbor Day

April is also a history-laden month.

- **April 10, 1942**, Bataan in the Philippines surrendered to Japan. Allied forces with Filipinos prisoners were forced to march 85 miles in six days with one meal of rice during the period. By the end of the march, more than 5,200 prisoners lost their lives.
- **April 11, 1991**, the Persian Gulf War officially ceased fire.

- **April 12, 1945**, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies in Warm Springs, Georgia, of a cerebral hemorrhage while World War II was still going on.

- **April 18, 1942**, Major General James Doolittle launched 16 B-25s off a carrier for an air raid on Tokyo, Japan.

- **April 18, 1945**, War correspondent Ernie Pyle, age 44, was killed on the Island Ie Schima.

- **April 21, 1945**, the Soviets enter Berlin, Germany.

- **April 28, 1945**, Benito Mussolini, Dictator of Italy, was executed with his mistress, Clara Petacci, by hanging.

- **April 30, 1945**, Adolph Hitler committed suicide with his "wife" Eva Braun.

April indeed is a very historical month.

Let's not forget !

**MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY
MAY 27, 2002**

Breakfast
begins at 8:00 AM.

The Sweet Adelines
will be
accompanied by
The Ypsilanti
Community
Orchestra
performing our
favorites.

We will also have a
bagpipe player for
our Memorial Day
ceremony
at 1:00 PM.

We need lots of
help in many areas
to prepare for this
special day.

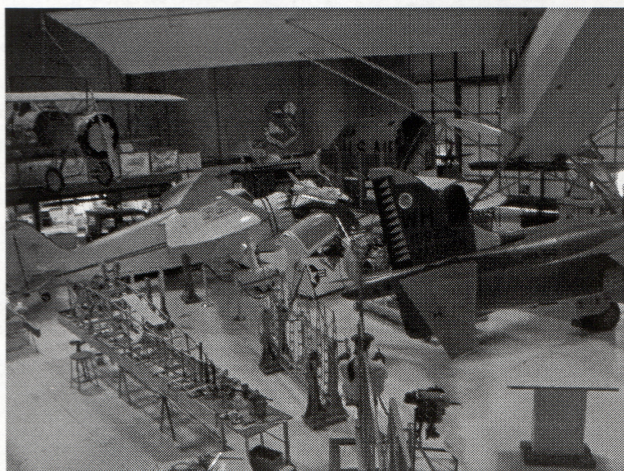
Please call
Debbie Stewart
to volunteer
(734) 697-8297

The Western Addition

by **Mark J. Jurecki**
Life Member # 1076

Gillespie Field is a general aviation regional airport located near the inland community of El Cajon, California. Unlike other airports closer to the coast, Gillespie Field seldom sees ocean fog. This lack of salt fog makes Gillespie Field a suitable place to store historic aircraft.

In 1993, the **San Diego**



duty lathe, industrial band saw, and an assortment of custom tools.

General Dynamics donated many of the shop's tools and the shop's large assortment of aircraft fittings. The shop has a very well organized inventory of small parts and the shop is kept

meticulously clean by its staff of volunteers.

Korean War markings. Nearby, they are restoring a racing P-51 to Tuskegee fighter squadron configuration.

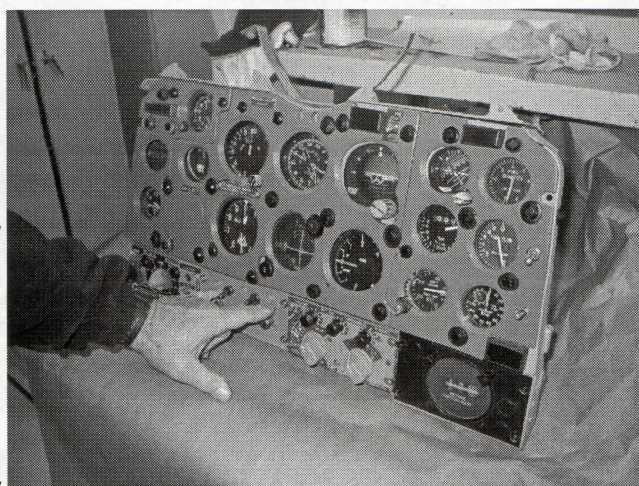
Several volunteers are working to restore an F-102 cockpit. They've made a great start on the control panel, and are re-creating the control yoke. Their ultimate aim is to finish the F-102 in Texas Air National Guard livery to represent the plane flown by President Bush.

Aerospace Museum established its restoration facility in two adjacent hangars at Gillespie Field. The museum uses much of the hangar space to store overflow holdings from the main museum: aircraft, paintings, and commercial models of aircraft. In addition the museum uses the hangars to house its restoration shops.

The machine shop features three vertical mills, a heavy-

The volunteers are currently working on several interesting projects. They are building a *Sopwith Pup* out of spruce according to the original blueprints.

Next door, they are painting an O-1 in general staff



Several of the volunteers once worked on B-24s. When asked what they recalled of the craft, they responded that:

- The upper turret O₂ fitting always failed, the swivel mount just didn't work.
- Brazier head rivets were used throughout the aircraft, and the rivets were set through access panels – there weren't any small people working inside the wing.
- At first they painted all the aircraft but later discovered that it was 10 mph faster in bare aluminum.
- The original purchase order came from the French government; contract number LB 30. The 'LB' became the 'Liberator' to the English who took over the contract following the fall of France.
- The de-icer boots were the worst parts to install. They were installed using Yankee push-drive screwdrivers. One slip, and the boot was punctured and useless. Then the whole thing had to be peeled out of its slot in the leading edge of the wing.
- The San Diego production line started with moving workstations but later

shifted over to moving aircraft. If your job fell behind, you had to chase the aircraft to its next stop. Workers in a hurry would simply walk across the wings from one aircraft to the next.

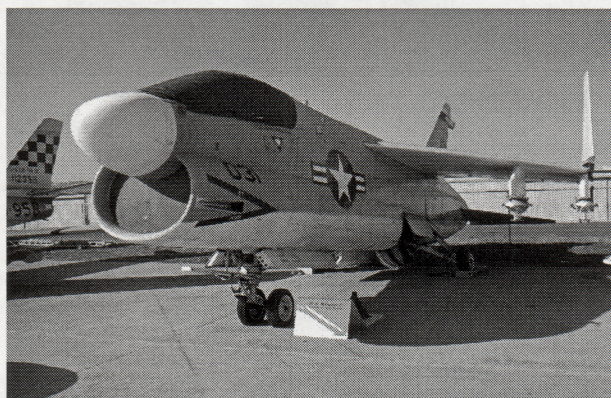
- The production line usually averaged eight bombers a day. Maximum production in San Diego was as high as 23 aircraft a day.
- Ford-produced B-24s were not put together as well as the ones made in San Diego. The Ford aircraft had

much worse rudder-induced shake.

The volunteers work at Gillespie Field throughout the week. They welcome the public on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Additional information:

Point of contact for the Gillespie Field group is **John Klein** (619) 258-1221. The crew chief of the Thursday Convair group is **Frank Signorelli**, available at the same phone number. Frank has restored several cruise missiles and sold or traded them to other museums. Frank looks like a very good source for hard-to-find parts. He is still plugged in to the aerospace community in San Diego, and is well aware of what is currently available as surplus from the manufacturers



Restored A-7 Corsair II on display outside the hangars



The line-up of restored aircraft waiting to go on display

Next time:

The
**USS
Wolverine**

WHY GRAMPA WENT TO WAR

On Saturday 16 February 2002 a group of students from the **University of Michigan** came to YAF to tour the Museum and participate in a special educational program. The students were freshmen and the class was "Why Grampa Went to War." The students are doing oral histories and wanted to talk with veterans and tour our aircraft to get a firsthand look. On hand to help with the program were **Steve Fisanick, Les Kellogg, Ted Edmonds, Dick Bodycombe, Ted Drews, Randy Hotton, and Todd Hackbarth.**

I want to thank everyone for their help with this great program!

— **Bette Watson**, Education Coordinator

WELCOME!

FAMILY DAY
at
**Yankee Air
Museum**

Saturday
May 11, 2002
11AM - 3PM

**Bring your family
and
meet other
fellow members**

**Complimentary
Refreshments**



New Members in December 2001

Division: **Willow Run**

ARMBRUSTER, Brian D.
BRAZEAU, William J.
BURNY, Alfred
CLAY, Henry F.
CLAY, L. Ted
DRAPER, Andrew
EBLEN, Jane E.
EBLEN, Michael R.
WELLS, Gregg



New Members in January 2002

Division: **Saginaw Valley**

PETERS, John

Division: **Willow Run**

BELLANT II, Richard E.
BENTON, Robert
BLAKE, Lucinda
DUPUIS, Hank
GAMPP, John
LARKE, Jason
RAMSEY, Bobby J.
SHAFFER, Eric
SIERSMA, Martin
WALKER, Ryan

In Memory Of...

*our members who have
recently passed away*

ALAN COBLEIGH
#5587 WR
Died 26 December 2001

HAROLD SHERMAN
#931 WR Senior Life
Died 25 February 2002

Hal Sherman's family would appreciate memorial contributions to the Yankee Air Force Museum or the Navy Memorial Fund.

Dates Set for YAF's Aircraft Display 2002

Saturday and Sunday, August 3rd and 4th will be the dates for the ***Aircraft Display 2002 Salute to Freedom*** which will be held here at the YAF hangar at Willow Run Airport. This will be the fourth straight year that this exciting event has been organized and led by member **Mike Luther**.

Mike informs us that planning has been well underway since shortly after last summer's *Gathering of Fighters*. The theme aircraft this year will be the B-25 Mitchell bomber. Currently there are six B-25s scheduled to attend in addition to the YAF's *Yankee Warrior*. Other aircraft

expected include a Spitfire and a Hurricane of *Battle of Britain* fame. The Avro Lancaster bomber owned and operated by the Canadian Warplane Heritage of Hamilton, Ontario is to fly in for static display on Sunday, August 4th only.

Numerous additional warbirds and active duty military aircraft will participate. WWII re-enactors and military vehicles will be on display.

On Saturday evening, there will be a World War II symposium and dinner in the hangar. It is hoped that our featured symposium speakers and guests for the weekend will be several participants of the *Doolittle Raid* which took place in April of 1942 when 16 B-25s took off from the aircraft carrier *Hornet*

and bombed several cities in Japan, including Tokyo.

An admission fee will be charged to attend the Aircraft Display. Yankee members who are signed up for, and work during the event, will be admitted for free. All non-working YAF members will be charged one half of the regular, adult admission price. A separate ticket must be purchased to attend the symposium Saturday evening.

The success of this undertaking, as with everything the Yankee Air Force does, is totally dependent upon its volunteers. Many will be needed during the weekend and for weeks beforehand to get things ready. If you are able, please volunteer for at least one day if at all possible.

Upcoming issues of *Hangar Happenin's* will contain further details, such as admission prices. Please check our website for regularly updated information.

www.yankeeairmuseum.org

2002 YAF AIRSHOW SCHEDULE

Feb. 28, 2002

B-17!	Apr 26-27	MCAS New River Airshow	Jacksonville, NC
B-17!	Apr 27-29	Carolina Aviation Museum dsp-	FLEX Charlotte, NC
	May 04-05		
	May 11-12		
	May 18-19		
B-17!	May 19	Allen Park Parade Flyby 14:00	Allen Park, MI
	May 25-26		
B-17!	C-47!	May 27	YAF Memorial Day Open House - FLEX Willow Run, MI
B-17!		May 31-04	Hanscom AFB Open House TB Boston, MA
B-17!		Jun 04-07	Mid Atlantic Air Museum dsply-FLEX Reading, PA
B-17!	C-47!	Jun 07-09	WII Commemorative Weekend - FLEX Reading, PA
B-17?	C-47?	Jun 15-16	Southeast Wisconsin Airfest - FLEX West Bend, WI
B-17?		Jun 15-16?	Pontiac Aiport Open House - FLEX Pontiac, MI
B-17!	C-47!	Jun 21-23	MAPS Aero Expo 2002 - FLEX Akron, OH
B-17?		Jun 29-30?	Pontiac Aiport Open House - FLEX Pontiac, MI
B-17!	C-47!	Jly 03-04	Ohio ANG Static Display - FLEX Mansfield, OH
B-17!	C-47!	Jly 05-07	Goshen Static Display - FLEX Goshen, IN
B-17!		Jly 12-14	Gathering of Eagles VII dsply-FLEX Willoughby, OH
B-17!		Jly 19-21	Air Expo 2002-Wings / North - FLEX Eden Prairie, MN
B-17!		Jly 22-23	B-17 Static Display - FLEX Albert Lea, MN
		Jly 27-28	
B-17!	C-47!	Aug 03-04	Air Display 2002-Salute to Freedom Willow Run, MI
B-17!		Aug 04	Concour's d'Elegance Flyby Rochester, MI
B-17?		Aug 09-11	Balloon Championship/Airshow- FLEX Muncie, IN
		Aug 11?	Wurtsmith Div Open House? Oscoda, MI
B-17!	C-47!	Aug 16-18	SkyFest Michiana South Bend, IN
B-17!		Aug 23-24	Nashville Static Display - FLEX Nashville, TN
B-17!		Aug 25-27	Sevierville Static Display - FLEX Sevierville, TN
	C-47?	Aug 24-25	Windsor Aircraft Static Display Windsor, Ontario
		Aug 31-02	Cleveland National Airshow Cleveland, OH
B-17!	C-47!	Sep 06-08	Airport Open House - FLEX Marion, OH
B-17?		Sep 13-15	South Wisconsin Airfest - FLEX Janesville, WI
		Sep 14-15	Sarnia Airshow SB Sarnia, Ontario
		Sep 21-22	
B-17!	C-47!	Sep 22	YAF Founder's Day Open House Willow Run, MI
B-17?		Sep 27-29	Augusta Airshow BA Augusta, GA

! Definitely scheduled

TB USAF Thunderbirds

? Tentative

SB Canadian Armed Forces Snowbirds

FLEX Flight Experience

BA US Navy Blue Angels

A WELCOME INTRUDER



These machines were the first all-weather attack aircraft and a mainstay of US Navy and Marine aviation forces in Southeast Asia.

If you'd be interested in bringing it back to life as a YAF static display, get in touch with Dick Rice who did an absolutely fabulous job on the Bronco. Dick tells us it was missing more than a few parts at project's start.



Dick Rice and crew did a great job in getting this A-6 Intruder to Willow Run from Lapeer. The aircraft, although missing (more than) a few parts is irrevocably owned by YAF to do with as we please.

This type was featured in the movie *Flight of the Intruder* with Danny Glover and Brad Johnson.

Photos and text courtesy of
YAF member
Dave Steiner #5352 WR

HYBRID JEEP

Only Yankee Air Force ingenuity in the person of **Les Kellogg, Ted Edmonds, Fred Nieman** and **Dale Feigley** could take two wrecked, parted-out Jeeps and trade them for one very presentable unit for the YAF hangar.

The old Jeeps had been in the yard east of our hangar for many years, but Dale and crew were able to perform their magic, doing the restoration in his Milford shop. Well done indeed! Don't suppose you guys came across anything that looked like A-6 landing gear parts when you parted out the Jeeps, did you?



Let's go for a ride!

Join fellow YAF members for a ride to exciting places in our very own
C-47



In order to involve more members in the flying activities at the YAF we are offering monthly excursions in our C-47 to places of interest. This will be done under a shared expense provision the FAA allows private owners of airplanes, like the YAF; to charge for airplane operations to cover expenses. Listed below are the dates, locations we are traveling to and the cost of each person on the trip. Everyone riding under this program must be a member of the YAF.

Day Date	Location	cost round trip
Tuesday 6-11	Hamilton, Ont., Canada, Canadian Warbird Heritage Museum.	\$95.00
Tuesday 7-16	Oscoda, Michigan, Wurtsmith AFB Museum	\$85.00
Tuesday 8-13	Kalamazoo, Michigan Air Zoo Museum	\$55.00
Tuesday 9-10	Dayton, Ohio, USAF Museum at Wright Patterson AFB	\$80.00

The fare covers only the air transportation, admission to those museums that charge admission will be in addition to the listed charge. Flights will normally leave at 9:00 AM from the YAF hanger and return before dark. A minimum of 12 people will be needed to ensure that the trip takes place as scheduled and a maximum of 18 people can be accommodated on each trip.

To reserve a place on one of these adventures, fill out the attached form and mail to the address indicated on the form. A check must be enclosed to reserve a seat on each desired trip, for those who sign up prior to June 1st there will be a \$5.00 discount. Seats will be filled on a first come first served basis. If demand is great enough we may plan additional trips.

(cut along line)

Name: _____ YAF Member # _____ Phone # _____ - _____ - _____

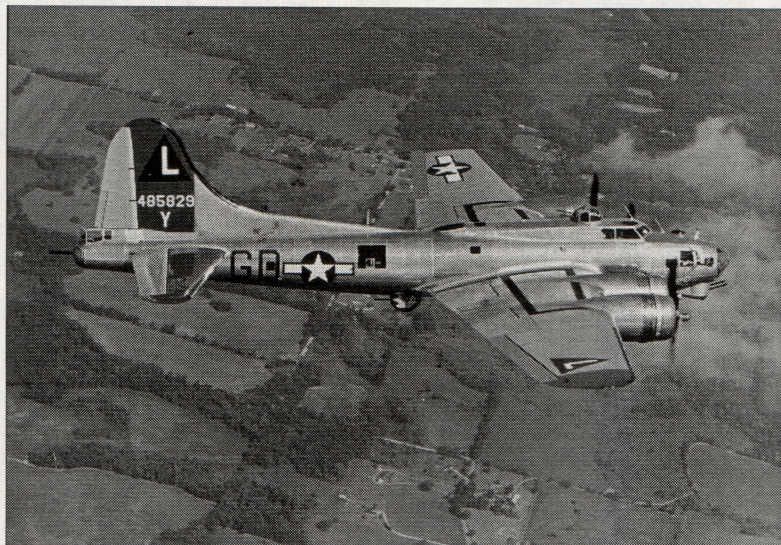
Date trip desired: _____ - _____ - _____ Number of seats _____ Cost per seat: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

For credit card charge: MC, Visa (circle one) Card # _____ exp date: _____ - _____

Signature: _____

Mail to C-47 Excursion program, Attn: Randy Hotton,
YAF Box 590 Belleville, MI 48111

The YAF reserves the right to cancel any of these excursions at any time and refund the participant the amount they paid. If there are any questions Randy can be reached at 734-547-7244 (days) or 734-697-4754 (evenings)



Our *Yankee Lady* somewhere in time
over Manchester ... Michigan.
Photo by **Todd Hackbarth** taken from
our B-25 *Yankee Warrior* on 27 July 1998

Please come to our
POLISHING PARTY

Saturday
6 April 2002
Rain Date: 13 April

Bring your own
soft cotton cloths,
a small can of
Mother's
Magnesium & Aluminum Polish
and some elbow grease!

*It can be chilly
even inside the hangar
so dress for comfort
and the weather*

Lunch will be provided

YANKEE AIR FORCE
P.O. BOX 590
BELLEVILLE, MI 48112-0590

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 56
Belleville, MI

David T. Saunders
5010 Clearview
Clarkston, MI 48348

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS ON THE LABEL, AND IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES, NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE.